

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re appl. of: **Benantar**

Serial No.: **09/821,079**

Filing Date: **03/29/2001**

For: **Method and system for
public-key-based secure
authentication to distributed
legacy applications**

\$ Group Art Unit: **2134**

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\$ Examiner: **Brown, C.**

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\$ Atty. Docket #:

AUS920010064US1

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

The following remarks are offered in response to the
previous Office Action.

I. General Remarks Concerning This Response

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the present application. No claims have been amended, added, or canceled in this response. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Summary of Present Invention

A method, a system, an apparatus, and a computer program product are presented for an authentication process. A host application or system within a distributed data processing system supports one or more controlled resources, such as a legacy application, that requires the receipt of authentication data prior to allowing a user to have access to the controlled resource. The required authentication data is encrypted using the public key of the host system, and an attribute certificate containing the encrypted authentication data is generated by an attribute-certificate-issuing authority. When a user of a client application or system requires access to the controlled resource, the attribute certificate is sent to the host, which decrypts the authentication data with its private key prior to forwarding the authentication data to the controlled resource. The controlled resource then authenticates a user based on the provided authentication data.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)—Obviousness—Parker in view of Riggins

The Office action has rejected claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 17, 25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Parker, "Access Control in a Distributed Computer System", U.S. Patent Number 5,339,403, filed 05/01/1991, issued 08/16/1994, in view of Riggins, "System and method for using an authentication applet to identify and authenticate a user in a computer network", U.S. Patent Number 6,766,454 B1, filed 07/23/1997, issued 07/20/2004. This rejection is traversed.